



# The Semaphore

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, NRHS  
P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326; Published Monthly

June 2002  
Volume 44, No. 9

## Program for June 20:

### Riding the Rails

(Part 1 of 3)

Once again we return to the R&GV RR Museum (Depot) at Industry to enjoy, and honor, our hard-working volunteers for what they have accomplished over the past 12 months. That means we will be "Riding the Rails" by some means during the next three months.

#### On TAP!

- \* How do 3 track cars on staggered schedules sound?
- \* Let's add a dispatcher and some meets to make it even more fun!
- \* Plus, we'll debut the new Depot Guide Training Tape.
- \* Plan to join us! Thursday, June 20 starting at 6 PM at the Industry Depot.
- \* Invite a fellow railfan who might like to join us!

### Program Committee

John Stewart 387-9185  
Bill Limburg 586-9470  
Dan Cosgrove 352-6931

The Committee welcomes suggestions and ideas for future programs. Contact any of the Committee members.

### Library Hours

7:30-9:30 PM

Monday, June 24

Library Phone: 872-4641

### Election Results

President: Jeremy Tuke

Vice President: Steve Oagley

Treasurer: Dave Luca

Recording Secretary: Ron Amberger

Corresponding Secretary: Chris Hauf

National Director: Bob Miner

Trustees: Charles Harshbarger, Dale Hartnett, John Kernan, Art Mummery, Joe Scanlon, John Weber.

## A Plea for Help

The Rochester Chapter derives a significant portion of its operating budget money from the Fall Foliage Trips that we have run in conjunction with The Ontario Midland Railroad for over ten years. Our fleet of ex-NYC stainless steel cars require a significant amount of ongoing maintenance in order to keep them not only presentable to our patrons, but in safe mechanical condition. This summer we have a long list of work to accomplish in order to have the car set ready for the 2002 season, and without **YOUR** help that season may be in jeopardy.

Bob Miner and Dave Luca have spearheaded the work on these cars for over ten years, and they cannot do the work alone. Membership involvement and commitment are required for the Chapter to keep this valuable asset in viable operating condition. In the last issue of *The Semaphore* Bob Miner reported on several items which need attention, yet there has been a less than desired response to appeals for help with working on the cars. Many of the projects are not too complex, and volunteers can be shown how to do various projects fairly quickly. Other areas which will require heavy equipment and welding are planned as well, and we have the skill set to do that work.

Help is needed in the following areas, to mention a few:

- ? Car Cleanup: vacuuming and cleaning.
- ? Diaphragms: installing diaphragm material between the cars.
- ? Power connections between cars: helping to hang cable and support roles.

? Windows: removing and reinstalling the screws that hold our windows in place prior to replacement. Also polishing windows to remove the "haze."

Assistance in assembling materials and equipment needed to be moved from Industry to Webster prior to heavy work planned for July and August.

Plans are to begin work on the head-end power car the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. Before that time several loads of tools and other equipment will need to be moved to Webster, probably during the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Bob Miner will be working on the cars every Wednesday both during the day as well as evenings during June and July. If you are interested in becoming involved with this important project please call Bob at 671-3589 or e-mail him [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK) mail to: [alfred\\_m\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:alfred_m_2002@yahoo.com) for more information on how you can help. Bob has developed a schedule of projects and can help to instruct on how things need to be done.

The Chapter's passenger car set has served us well over the past decade, however this important area of the Chapter's function and lifeblood cannot be maintained by two people. **YOUR** commitment and involvement are needed if we are to rely on this as a future source of income for the Chapter. Without the Fall Foliage trips all other aspects of the Chapter are significantly impacted.

Jeremy Tuke, President



EK6 and one of our two MDT refrigerator cars exit the back side of the NYMT loop on the way to the Industry yard setup for display for our visitors. *Chris Hauf digital photo*

### Schedule of Track Car Operators

- June 9:** Bob Mader, Bob Achilles, Harold Russell
- June 16:** Steve Huse, Jeremy Tuke, David Soble
- June 23:** Mike Byrne, Charles McCabe
- June 30:** Charles McCabe, Jerry Gillette
- July 7:** Bob Achilles, Joe Letwin
- July 14:** Harold Russell, Tom Saul, Charles McCabe
- July 21:** Charles McCabe, Tom Saul, Dunham
- July 28:** Steve Huse, Charles McCabe, Jerry Gillette
- August 4:** Gale Smith, Ira Cohen
- August 11:** Harold Russell
- August 17:** Vern Smith, Charles McCabe, Gale Smith
- August 18:** Vern Smith
- August 25:** Tom Saul, Jerry Gillette  
(To be continued)

### Track Car Operations

*Jeremy Tuke, 359-8944*  
*Harold Russell, 427-9159*

The Museum season is well underway and we have a great group of qualified Track Motor Car Operators trained and ready for the busy 2002 season. Thanks to Harold Russell for taking over as weekend operations scheduler, and Dave Soble for handling the scheduling of the weekday group tour operators.

We are looking for more membership involvement in the regular maintenance of the Track Car equipment, so if you are interested in learning about the mechanical side to the Track Car and M of W fleet, please contact Jeremy Tuke or Harold Russell. Contact Harold Russell if you are a qualified operator and would like to get on the schedule—it's filling up fast!!

### TC Operators needed

Harold Russell, the coordinator for track car operators on weekends, has the following openings still open.

#### Alternate operators:

June 2, 16, 23, 30, July 7, August 4, 11, 18 and the rest of the year.

#### Operators for TC-1/2:

August 11, 18, September 1, 8, 15, 22, October 6, 13, 20.

#### Operators for TC-3:

September 1, 19, October 6 and 20.

Some of these dates may already be filled, as members sign up. If you wish to operate this year, please give Harold a call at 585-427-9159 or e-mail: <haroldrussell@juno.com>.

### Depot Tour Guide Schedule

Depot Guides should be at the Depot no later than 11:00 AM to open up the displays and "police" the grounds. First group will arrive at 11:30,

If you are not able to make your scheduled date, please arrange to switch with another person on this list.

- June 9:** George Bauerschmidt
- Steve Oagley
- June 16:** John Weber  
Lynn Heintz
- June 23:** Tom & Tony Way
- June 30:** Rick Israelson
- July 7:** Gale Smith  
Richard & Colleen Guerin
- July 14:** DeWain Feller  
Dave Luca
- July 21:** Tom & Tony Way
- July 28:** Dan Gottler  
Tom Saul
- August 4:** Jim East  
Al O'Brien
- August 11:** John Becker  
William Limburg
- August 18:** Darren Baun  
Steve Oagley  
(To be continued)

### Membership Report

*Janet Dittmer, Chair*

#### Change of Address:

**Otto Vondrak**  
321 Halstead Ave., #4  
Harrison, NY 10528  
(914) 777-3168 ovondrak@yahoo.com

### Membership Roster Enclosed

Enclosed is the 2002 Membership Roster. Anyone who has renewed after June 5 will not be in the roster, but will be listed in the newsletter as they renew.

Keep this Roster handy to look-up phone numbers and e-mail addresses; and to add renewals and new members in the upcoming year.

#### Any corrections/address change?

Please either e-mail Janet corrections to <daveluca@frontiernet.net> or send to P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY, 14692-3326. Please no phone messages. Changes and omissions will appear in the next issue.

#### Membership Rates:

(as of Feb. 1, 2002)

- National + Chapter membership: . \$40
- Above as Family membership .... \$52
- Local\* ..... \$20
- Local as Family\* ..... \$29
- (\* Holds National membership elsewhere)
- National only ..... \$20
- National as Family only ..... \$23
- Subscriptions only: ..... \$8
- All discounts expire on February 1.

New and Renewals memberships (see due rates above) should be sent to:

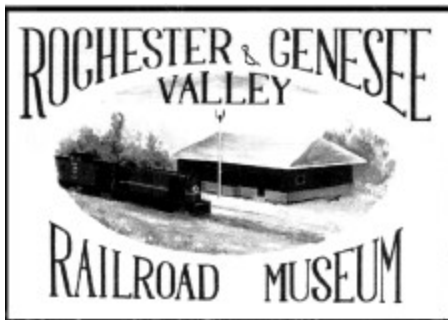
Rochester Chapter, NRHS  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 23326  
Rochester, NY 14692-3326.

### Contributors to this issue

Janet Dittmer, Dale Hartnett, Chris Hauf, Lynn Heintz, Jesse Marks, Bob Miner, John Redden, Charles Robinson, Harold Russell, Joe Scanlon, John Stewart, Jeremy Tuke, Rand Warner.

### Editor is on the InterNet

The e-mail address is: *gale299@frontiernet.net*.



## From the President .....

*Jeremy Tuke, 359-8944*

Hats off to Chris Hauf for several productive terms as Chapter President! Our hardy group of volunteers has accomplished much under Chris' term, and Chris has been instrumental in many upgrades which have benefited the Chapter, including outstanding photographic and graphic items for Museum Displays, spearheading many painting projects, and other items too numerous to mention! I look forward to Chris' continued participation with the Chapter as Corresponding Secretary. I would also like to welcome back both Ron Amberger, as Recording Secretary, and John Kernan as Trustee to the Board. I thank the Membership for their support in the recent election. I am looking forward to serving the Chapter in the capacity of President, and would like to focus on continuing to encourage improvement in all aspects of the Chapter's activities. I view my role as facilitator, and welcome input from the Membership.

Several areas will receive particular attention:

**Membership Development:** We have a rare and unique group of members with varied and extensive talents. I would like to help facilitate greater involvement by the membership in the many programs we have to offer: Museum activities, Library, Publications, Train show participation, Fall Foliage trip work and Passenger car improvement. Few of us are experts in these areas but member contributions to our activities will prove rewarding and beneficial not only to the Chapter but the community as well. Actively serving on one of our many committees is a great way to get more involved!

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming involved with the Membership Committee.

**Museum Improvement:** Sometimes I wonder how many of us stop and consider what a unique situation we have with the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum and its relationship with the New York

## Managers

**Railroad:** (Motive, Rolling stock, MOW, ROW)

**John Redden:** 388-9124; ejreden@frontiernet.net

**Infrastructure:** (Buildings, grounds, shops, construction, communications, signals & power, heavy equipment)

**Dave Luca:** 288-0318; daveluca@frontiernet.net

**Visitor Experience:** (Visitor, Train & Track Car operations, 4-Q Vision, Special events)

**Dale Hartnett:** 243-0139; dhartnet@wuhf.sbgnet.com

Museum of Transportation. No where else in the country are there two distinct and complimentary rail-oriented Museums working to present the public with a single visitor experience. We are connected by a pastoral and beautiful two mile right-of-way which allows us to not only collect and preserve unique railroad and traction equipment but operate that equipment as well. I am still continually amazed at what has been accomplished at our museum over the past thirty years. Involvement in our many and diverse activities at the Museum is extremely rewarding, both for the sense of accomplishment and the fellowship. I would like to help encourage our new focus on prioritization of projects and our efforts to present a more organized and professional presentation to the visiting public.

**Development:** While Fall Foliage Trips and Museum admissions currently provide funding to operate our Museum and assist with other Chapter endeavors, more focused efforts towards fundraising and grant opportunities need to be explored if we are to continue to develop our Chapter as a whole and improve our unique Museum facility.

When I communicate with members from other Chapters around the country and folks involved in the general arena of the Railfan hobby, I am always aware of how great a thing we have here in the Rochester Chapter. I look forward to my continuing involvement with this great group of people and the many things we can accomplish together as we

A Note from our Past President ...

## Thank you!

Over the past four years, I have had the distinct pleasure of being the President of the Rochester Chapter NRHS, and I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for making it such a great experience. Not without its occasional bumps, I can honestly say the positive aspects of the job far outweighed any negatives. Without a hesitation, I would and hope to someday again have the honor of

holding the position of Rochester Chapter President. We have a really great group of people that make up the Rochester Chapter, and we should all be proud of our Chapter as it celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2002!

For now, I have switched out of the role of President and into the role of Corresponding Secretary. With my wife and I planning to start a family in the not so distant future, I decided to take on a slightly lesser role on the Board to allow me more flexibility in the future while still remaining active. I am looking forward to tackling my new role and responsibilities.

I am also very pleased to have Jeremy Tuke as our new President. I think he is going to do great things for the Chapter and am looking forward to working with him to continue to see our Chapter grow and prosper! I am also excited to have both Ron Amberger and John Kernan back on the Board while we will miss the contributions of John Stewart who stepped down as a Trustee. (Thanks John!) As we look to the future, we have a great new leader and a great Board of Trustees which now has no fewer than FOUR Chapter Presidents (current and past) serving on it.

I will end by saying if you have not been involved recently, there is no better time to come on out even if just for a visit or to lend a hand for a couple of hours. There are lots of great things to do and take advantage of all across the Chapter. From visiting or volunteering at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum to visiting or helping out at the Chapter library to helping out on the Chapter's excursion car set to working with the Chapter's Operation Lifesaver team to become a certified presenter. Plus don't forget our summer Chapter meetings at the R&GV RR Museum. This is a great time to come for a visit and bring a friend or two! So come on out! We would love to see you!

Thanks again for a great four years!

*Chris Hauf*

## Safety is Job #1

by Rand Warner

Steve Huse has installed and inspected all our fire extinguishers, put up placards and also installed protective fencing where required to ensure that we always have clear access.

Rand Warner has procured three different 5-gallon water extinguishers, to protect welding and cutting projects during the warm weather months. These would also be suitable to fight brush fires if needed.

### Rail Safety

We want to have metal rail skates available on all locomotives to secure trains and cars on grades.

We also want lots of wood wedge wheel chocks available for use during our many switching moves.

### Construction Equipment Safety

Pairs of yellow painted wood wheel chocks have been made up by the Young Railfans group for several pieces of our active contraction equipment.

We need more sets of these chocks made up so that we have them on all rubber tired construction equipment in use.

## Prototype Operations Possibilities

by Rand Warner

Dale Hartnett has made up and distributed a proposed outline for an exercise on running track cars with train orders and meets. We may try this out for our June Membership Meeting at the Museum.

Once we have been through the above exercise, it would be a logical extension to apply the same rationale to several short freight trains operating between NYMT and R&GVRM.

From a real Dispatcher's Nightmare – one that undoubtedly would require the expertise of Dan Cosgrove – we could intermix trains, trolleys and track cars.!

The good folks at the RIT Model Railroad group and the Rochester Model Railroad group already do this kind of thing in HO scale.

It certainly could be some fun for our members and volunteers, and possibly other railfans and the visiting public—to see some of the challenges in running real, prototype railroad operations.

What do you say?

## Not a Double-Hitter, But a Sextuple-Hitter!

by Rand Warner

Saturday, May 11, was definitely not just your average volunteer work day. On this particular Saturday we witnessed the following events and “coming out parties”:

1. Young Railfans Pancake Breakfast. Another gastro intestinal orgy provided through Dale Hartnett, the teenagers, and their parents.

2. Caterpillar Army D-7 bulldozer emerged from the Restoration Building under its own power, thanks to Art Mummery and all his helpers.

3. John Deere Garden Tractor/Mower was in operation again after rebuild of the 47" mower deck, thanks to Bob Mader.

4. Farmall Tractor & Woods Mower was in operation and mowing, for the first time, after lots and lots of TLC from Bob Mader and Co.

5. Railway Express Cart. Newly refurbished by Jesse Marks and his Young Railfan group and their dads, made its debut after final reassembly from rebuilt component parts. This was an Eagle Scout project directed by Jesse.

6. Army Loco #1654 Traction Motor, Wheel Set and Gear box arrived from Conway Yard of NS via Dave Knab's tractor-trailer flatbed 18-wheeler rig.

## Track & Right of Way

Acting Track Supt.: Rand Warner

A track inspection and maintenance meeting was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Depot with section foremen and management from R&GVRM and NYMT. At this meeting we agreed upon priorities, responsibilities and frequency of inspections. A number of related hand outs were provided to support discussion. Rand Warner has written up this meeting and distributed copies to NYMT & R&GVRM management and section foremen.

Dick Holbert has recently completed an Federal Railroad Administration approved track inspection course. He has subsequently inspected our main line trackage in light of his course work, and has written up his observations and recommendations.

Regular Tuesday evening and Saturday track work sessions are being spear headed by Randy Bogucki. Come on down and help.

Ties and switch timbers are being replaced at NYMT by Randy Bogucki, Mark Pappalardo, assisted by others.

John Redden is taking Switch #5 out of service for rebuild/rehab/replacement. We will temporarily straight rail it to keep the main line up the hill in active service.

Dale Hartnett and Dave Luca are continuing to work on drainage issues;

1. Getting water away from track and into culverts, and

## Trolley Electrification

Facilitator: Rand Warner

Charlie Lowe of NYMT is continuing to stake out poles and guys, working south from the NYMT Loop Switch. Charlie has laid out all details of the overhead wire construction on drawings. He is also spear-heading the very effective pre-preparation of guys, pull-offs, backbones, etc. per his drawing requirements. This has been a great factor in our efficiency of erecting overhead.

Scott Gleason has directed a RG&E volunteer crew of men and their heavy equipment in putting up almost 20 more poles on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> for “Volunteers Make A Difference Day”. Great job!! Scott is also working several angles towards upgrading our auger truck capability for future pole setting efforts by our volunteers.

Rand Warner has been working on structural, mechanical and electrical definitions for a new trolley system substation to run off commercial Niagara Mohawk power. This has involved interfaces with many, many, consultants, museums, contractors, NiMo, suppliers, inspectors, municipalities, etc.

A meeting was held at NYMT with involved and affected R&GVRM and NYMT personnel to review substation options and make decisions relative to the desired configuration. This meeting, which establishes our baseline for future work in 2002,



**Editor's  
Corner**

Your Editor would appreciate an earlier submission of input for the July issue. He leaves, by Amtrak(!) for New York City to attend a Theatre Historical Society Conclave from July 9 to 14. This is his second trip to the 'Big Apple'; his first was 51 years ago with his high school graduation class in 1951!

Last month was troubling trying to get a final print-out for printing. It took two computers to finish the task. Went out and purchased a new one (with LCD monitor; half the price of the computer!)—but it still sits in the boxes—no place to put it!

## Library Report

Charles Robinson, Chairman

The Library will be opened for general use on **Monday evening, June 24, between 7:30 and 9:30 PM.** We look forward to seeing you there.

There are now only a very few boxes of donated materials that have not been sorted and filed away. [However, new materials arrive almost weekly!]

Gale Smith, Jerry Gillette and myself have been working on cataloging the books that have been recently donated plus organizing in an improved manner the newspaper clippings that we have received over the years about mostly local rail lines.

Bob Miner and Dave Luca have neatly improved the area surrounding the building.

The staff will now concentrate on refurbishing the building; it is in need of a new roof. The staff is not going to attempt to re-roof the building but will wait another year to accumulate the funds to have the work done by a roofing contractor. Our reconstruction efforts will be concentrated on fixing the siding on the cupola and painting the skirt on the east side. Fortunately, a few have volunteered to assist the chapter in this endeavor.

It is almost summer time and I am certain that many will be relaxing in the shade in the backyard to read books. Come out and see our selection of summer time reading.

## Reefer cars to be donated

Don Mills posted a note on [RailroadHistorical-Editors] that the June issue of High Green, the Newsletter of the Chesapeake, VA Railway Association, had an interesting article. A number of old FGE reefers are being offered for donation to preservation groups. The location and number have not been determined but interested parties may send e-mail to <expresscar@aol.com> for additional

## R&GV RR Museum embroidered golf shirts

For those who ordered the green, embroidered R&GV RR Museum golf shirts, they will be available for pick-up at the June Chapter meeting. As a reminder, the shirts are \$15.00. Please see Chris Hauf at the meeting to get your shirt. If you can't pick up your shirt, please contact Chris and he will make alternate arrangements. And if you want to purchase a shirt, Chris will also be taking orders at the meeting or contact him directly too!

## Extending our message

by Lynn Heintz

Last year while doing Depot duty, a couple and small child arrived at our Depot with an average size group. It was soon realized that this couple were deaf and their 4-year-old was listening and signing with them. At this point I decided to take them on a tour by themselves. As I directed by comments towards the parents they were reading my lips and signing with their son at the same time. When the cars returned to pick them up, they shook my hand and thanked me for helping them. Afterward, I thought about the Rochester area having the largest deaf population in USA and why were there not more deaf people visiting our museum.

I am posing these questions to the membership. Do any members know sign language? Do any members have family or friends who know sign language? Would it be possible to put together one day each season to welcome the deaf community to the museum with interpreters and more visual aids? For six years, I worked next to a man who is totally deaf and while I did not learn to sign, I did learn to communicate with him. This man is currently considering becoming a member but I am sure that you can understand his hesitancy. Please contact me with comments on this idea.

## Fire Extinguishers Inspected

On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Steve Huse inspected the Chapter's fire extinguishers. The Chapter currently owns and maintains a total of fifty-two extinguishers at several locations. We are fortunate that we have a dedicated volunteer, in Steve, who is willing to inspect and maintain this "fleet".

This year, four of the extinguishers were found to be in need of work. All were sent out, repaired, and returned. In addition, one new extinguisher was purchased.

Our sincere thanks to Steve for going out to Webster, down to Industry, and to the NYMT (for our track cars).

Thanks for input for this article from Steve Huse.

## Star lanterns are back!

We have recently taken delivery of another group of R&GV RR Museum marked Star lanterns. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Chris Hauf (crhauf@frontiernet.net, 381-8583) or come on out to the June Chapter meetings. Lanterns will be available for sale then.

## Thanks to ....

**Bob Miner** and **Rand Warner** for arranging for donation and pickup of replacement "Station Agent" #24 coal/wood stove for our Depot.

**Fred Summerhayes** for donation of clean, capped, 50-gallon blue plastic trash barrels for use around Museum site and Restoration Building.

**Ted Miller** for donation of a vintage ex-Milwaukee Road Fairmont Model MT-19 Inspection Speeder.

## Wanted

- Metal rail skates and metal wheel chocks
- Wooden wedges and wooden wheel chock sets
- Rolling track gage
- Double action ratchet track jacks
- High profile and low profile tack jacks
- Whiting or Dudd Norton electric or hydraulic cantilever passenger car jacks.
- Steam loco bell yoke and base assembly for our Heisler fireless loco #1
- Matching pair(s) of kerosene or electric marker lamps for Vulcan steam

## Salt mine tour?

Lynn Heintz recently pursued a rumor that turned out to be true. Later this summer interested groups will be able to tour the new salt mine at Mt. Morris. An official confirmed this and said that groups such as the NRHS would be given extra emphasis on the railroad operations. Members interested should let me know and I will coordinate a tour with the mine official when they commence.

lheintz2@rochester.rr.com or 768-6984 (leave message)

## Narrow gauge near Rochester?

Lynn Heintz wants to know if anyone has knowledge of the narrow gauge operation that was nearest to Rochester.

## Also long-sleeve shirts

We also have available long-sleeve denim shirts embroidered on the left breast with logo of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The Shirts are \$25.00 plus tax (4% NYS Tax = \$1.00 per shirt) for adult sizes small to extra large; for sizes 2XL and larger, add \$2.00.

## A New Image at the R&GV RR Museum

by Jesse Marks

As many of you noticed last fall, the REA baggage cart was missing from the SE corner of depot. The reason why it was gone was because I was in search of a community service project for my Eagle rank. The car was in bad condition due to the weather it had faced over the years. I thought this would be perfect project to help restore.

The plans were made and the cart was disassembled so it could be brought back to my house for the long "overhaul." With the help of Troop 86 from Brockport the baggage cart was slowly restored. The restoration included a lot of paint grinding/sanding (who knew <sup>brand</sup> you could put that many coats of paint on something!), wire brushing, and priming all the wood and metal afterwards. The front rack had to be totally rebuilt because of nails and tacks inside the wood –it looks very close to the original. (Special thanks to Charlie Marks on making the new rack.)

The final stages of the project included painting the wood a forest green color and the metal a bright red. The assembly took place May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Depot with the help of Troop 86. After assembling the cart, the crew got a tour around the Depot and a locomotive ride.

The finishing touches that still have to be done is the research information that will be placed next to the cart on a pedestal, and a new REA sign to put on the front of the rack.

Thanks to Troop 86, Charlie Marks, Museum Staff – for all the needed help!

Special thanks to Barry Hettler – for all the detailed work.



## The Bear Comes Out of Hibernation!!

by Joe Scanlon

A couple of years ago Joe Scanlon and Art Mummery found a Caterpillar D7 bulldozer down at Seneca Army Depot which they were able to acquire for the museum. Bulldozers are not usually available to us from the Federal Surplus Property Program, but we were able to get this one because it had a bad engine. Art said if we could get it, he could fix it.

Some time went by, and the International Operating Engineers Local 832 training site found a replacement engine for us, thanks to Training Director Dan Swauger. Some more time went by and then chapter president Chris Hauf started dismantling the D7 under Art's direction to prepare it for the transplant. Some more time went by and the replacement engine got put in the tractor. Now Art really went to work connecting a myriad of lines, wires, cables, linkages, nuts, bolts, cotter pins and rounding up various missing (and misplaced) parts.

A couple of weeks ago everything was basically connected. Art hooked up the batteries, cranked the engine over, and a turbocharged Caterpillar diesel sprang to life with a definitive snort and evened out to a throaty growl. Our "Bear" really growls!



You've got to hear it!

Next Art put the gear selector in first forward, and the CAT walked out of the building under its own power! Some more fine tuning and adjusting went on, and the last weekend in May the CAT was parked outside and Chris Hauf got out his trusty paint gun, connected it to the Chapter's newly acquired gasoline engine powered air compressor and started spray painting.

We are now proud owners of a beautiful, turbocharged, torque converter equipped, power shift, freshly repainted Caterpillar D7 bulldozer, with an almost 12 foot wide blade! In short, we have a real BEAR in our heavy equipment arsenal now! Bring on those big earthmoving projects! We're ready.

Many thanks to Art Mummery and Chris Hauf for taking the lead on another major project which they've brought to completion! Thanks especially to Mr. Dan Swauger and the Operating Engineers Local 832 for going out of their way to support us with our heavy equipment projects! Thanks to so many members who've pitched in and lended a hand or even just words of encouragement to help bring our CAT back to life!!

Make plans to check out this monster when you come out for the summer chapter meetings at the depot! See you then!

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<<< This "fuzzy" photo does not do justice to the deep green paint with bright red trim to this REA cart – carrying a simulated shipping crate of railroad lanterns!

## Museum Musings

by Dale Hartnett

Chris Hauf passed along an interesting article the other day.

The gist of the article is that the Altoona Railroaders' Memorial Museum, one of America's truly fine rail-oriented museums, is having financial problems.

It seems the folks in Altoona have expenses that are higher than their income. Now staff is being cut back and the museum is searching for other ways to reduce costs. There are even some folks wondering whether the ARM can continue to operate.

Your first thought may be something to the effect of, "I'm sure glad we aren't in that fix."

At the R&GVRR Museum, we've always made a dollar do the job of about 1 dollars. We've always seemed to have a little extra money to help us grow.

That extra money could be going away.

Here's the problem:

We need many more people to volunteer to help work on the train set. If a number of issues are not addressed, we simply will not be able to run this fall.

Our museum and many other Chapter functions are financed by the Chapter's Fall Foliage Trips. Without these funds, our activities would at the Museum and throughout the Chapter would be seriously curtailed.

We face 2 choices (Choose whichever one fits your circumstance):

1. A donation of about \$1,000,000 would provide enough interest income to offset the income from the Fall Foliage Trips and allow us to keep up with inflation, or

2. Everyone who gets enjoyment out of any Chapter activities can step forward to help with the train set to the degree that their skills allow.

If you fall in the first category, please call me at 243-0139 to make the donation arrangements.

If you don't have \$1,000,000 to spare you should contact Bob Miner at 671-3589 to find out how you can help.

The situation has reached the point that we're not talking about what we'd each *like to do*. We're talking about what we each *have to do*!

The work the Chapter does is important to each of us and to our community. Simply put, we need you to join us now.

Clip/copy and save for future reference

### The Contacts:

#### Officers and Board of Trustees:

President	Jeremy Tuke	359-8944
Vice President	Steve Oagley	865-6535
Treasurer	Dave Luca	288-0318
Recording Secretary	Ron Amberger	242-9511
Corresponding Secretary	Chris Hauf	381-8583
National Director	Bob Miner	671-3589
Trustees		
	Charles Harshbarger	266-8339
	Dale Hartnett	243-0139
	John Kernan	671-8719
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Chapter Meeting & Program:  
**Riding The Rails**  
 with compliments of our  
**Motive Power Gang**  
 at the  
**Depot Museum**  
 From 6 PM on  
**NYS Route 251**

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Contributions to *The Semaphore* are welcomed and encouraged from all readers. They should be mailed to: Gale E. Smith, 299 Seneca Park Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617-2433. Phone: (716) 544-6221. Contributors using a computer are asked to send their submissions on any MS-DOS diskette in ASCII or \*.txt format, as well as a printed copy. Also can send by e-mail to: gale299@frontiernet.net. **Deadline: First Day of Each Month.**

**Pouring the Restoration Facility Floor!**

The Restoration Building is up and running! Now we need to provide it with a concrete floor. We raised the dust to finish the space. Now we've faced with dust all over the place. One hundred dollars will buy a batch of concrete. The estimate for the floor is \$25,000; we'll need 250 batches (!). Help "cement" together a great project. Maybe we'll even let you write your name and date in a slab! [Don Shilling] (Each block indicates \$1,000)
